

**Agenda**  
**INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING**  
**PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING**

**April 14, 2014 1:00 pm**

**Plymouth FD**

**111Center St**

**Plymouth IN 46563**

**574-936-2156**

**John Grolich, Point of Contact**

- A Meeting called to order;
- B. Roll Call
- C. February minutes as submitted
- D Variance requests:

1. Tobias Frost is requesting a variance for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. He has met the prerequisites, included his transcripts for Bachelor in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology, submitted completed skills for Fire Officer III and IV, and completed the variance request packet with a total point value of 60.

Staff recommends Board approval based upon information submitted. Mr. Frost has a bachelor degree and submitted a completed variance request packet; skills check off sheets and letter of recommendation from the Fire Chief.

2. Capt Steffen Schrock, Goshen FD, is requesting an extension on behalf of career firefighter Shane McKerchie. This is a request for a second 1 year extension to achieve certification as a Firefighter I/II. Mr. McKerchie started paramedic school at the same time he started his firefighter I/II. He has completed the mandatory firefighter certification training. He will complete the paramedic school in May. Mr. McKerchie has not been able to complete the firefighter I/II training.

Staff recommends Board approval for 6 months as allowed under IC 36-8-10.5-7.5.

3. Travis Theurer is requesting a variance for Instructor I. He has been a Firefighter II since Nov. 2012 and he is a State of Indiana licensed teacher.

Staff recommends Board approval pending his passing the Instructor reciprocity test. The reciprocity test is a written examination based upon the Board rules. *(At the time the agenda was developed SFM staff is trying to get a meeting with DOE to confirm the difference between a state license and a state certified teacher.)*

4. Robert Gemmecke is requesting a variance to not have to pass the Firefighter I/II written examination. Fire Chief Justin Nelson is requesting the Board grant this variance based upon Mr. Gemmecke is able to complete all of the skills. Mr. Gemmecke tested in May of 2013 and passed the practical skills but is unable to pass the written exam. (Documentation enclosed) Robert is asking to be certified based on practical skills only.

Staff recommends the Board deny the variance request based on the documentation submitted. The documentation does not provide a basis for a variance.

5. William Weaver is asking for a variance from IAC 1.2.1-19 (c). This request is for an extension to complete his hours of in-service requirements for Instructor I. He held an instructor I, expiring in 2010 but went active military from 2009 to 2013. His Instructor I certification expired while he was on active duty. He is asking for an extension in order to get his teaching/evaluating and adult continuing education hours.

Staff recommends Board approval of this variance request. Mr. Weaver should be required to acquire 6 hours of adult continuing education in the next six months in order to be recertified on November 1, 2014.

*Background - the EMS Commission grants an extension to the certification period based upon active duty military. We have requested a copy of his DD214 which is his active duty orders.*

6. Seth Goodson is requesting a variance for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics. He completed the Blue Card program and feels that the program surpasses the state requirement for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics.

Staff recommends denial. In June of 2012 the Board denied these. The Board asked the Blue Card representative to attend a meeting and explain about the curriculum, what was involved for the student to achieve Blue Card status and how the Blue Card training and testing would meet the Board requirements for FOST equivalent training and testing. No representative attended. This was kept on the agenda for 6 months and no representative appeared in front of the Board. John Buckman requested a meeting with Blue Card representative for Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and has not received a response.

7. Daniel Siek is requesting a variance for the following students to be allowed to take written/practical testing at the age of 17. Jario Noriega; Kayla Sherman and Dylon Loveall.

Staff recommends approval with the understanding that students must be 17 years of age at the time of testing and they are enrolled in a high school program.

8. Bernard Beier Jr. is requesting a variance for Hazmat Technician. He took the test in Dec 2013, but did not have the prerequisites. He has now completed the Hazmat operations level, and would like the technician level to be credited. (Mr. Beier filed an appeal to the Judge originally on this issue.)

Staff recommends that Mr. Beier be directed to retake the hazardous materials technician written exam. Skills for hazardous materials technician completed in December, 2013 will be valid until June 1, 2014.

9. Robert Dickerson is requesting a variance for Hazardous Material Operations and Firefighter I/II. (8 binders of material have been submitted asking for various certifications; Mr. Dickerson asked for these certifications at the Board meeting in January of 2014. The Board denied his request for a variance. Mr. Dickerson appealed, Board sent him to administrative review, he has come back and is asking for variances with additional documentation. Mr. Dickerson is asking the Board to grant a variance for the following certifications:

- Technical Rescue Awareness;
- Confined Space rescue Operations and Technician;
- Firefighter I/II;
- Rope Rescue Operations and Technician;
- Structural Collapse Rescue Operations and Technician;

- Swift Water Rescue Operations and Technician;
- Trench Rescue Operations and Technician;
- Vehicle Rescue Operations and Technician and
- Wilderness Rescue Operations and Technician.

The documentation provided by Captain Dickerson indicates a tremendous amount of training taken over a significant period of time. Captain Dickerson has provided documentation to indicate continuous education and training for each of the certifications requested below. Captain Dickerson documentation does not clearly state that each of the skills required for hazardous materials operations and firefighter I/II have been tested. Captain Dickerson demonstrates a long tenure of teaching the topics/skills associated with HMO and FF I/II skills and didactic information. Captain Dickerson is an active Instructor assigned full time to training division of Indianapolis Fire Department. Captain Dickerson intends to attend the meeting and staff encourages the Board to ask questions about how the skills for each of the certifications were trained and tested. Based upon the answers to the questions posed by the Board a more informed decision can be made by the Board on this variance request.

Specific questions the Board may consider inquiring about. How he can verify that he demonstrated any/all of the following skills:

- Foam / use and application
- Damning and diking
- Diverting / Retention of Product / Absorption of Product
- Emergency Decon
- Vapor dispersion

Firefighter I/II certification to the best of staff knowledge has not been granted under a variance condition by the Board since the transition from First Class Firefighter certification back in the late 1990's. It has been the position of the Board that a person must pass the skills and pass the written examination to be certified at the Firefighter I/II level.

Staff has no recommendation at this time based upon various questions the Board needs to obtain answers.

- E. State Fire Marshal report, James Greeson
- F. Director of Planning/Training report, Joe Romero
- G. Fire Academy Training System report; John Buckman
- H. Administrative proceedings, Judge Bippus

None at this time

- Ha. Administrative proceedings pending action / no board action required

- 1. Cause 14-01, Jerry Martin
- 2. Cause 14-02, Bernard Beier
- 3. Cause 14-03, Bryan Fuller

- I. Request for reciprocity.

- J. Request for administrative appeal.

- 1. Tobey Archer is requesting an administrative review of his denial of his Instructor I certification. Mr. Archer failed the written examination for Instructor I. Mr. Archer states his justification for his appeal is that Instructor, Steve Yelich, provided outdated information to the students.

- K. Old business

- L. New business

- 1. John Smith has asked staff about the signatures required on Lead evaluator skills sign off sheets. How do they need to be signed? Every line needs to be signed? Can a stamp be used? Can a person sign their name at the top of the page and then draw a line to the bottom indicating that the person is indicating his confirmation that he/she completed all of the skills.

- M Meeting adjourned:

NEXT MEETING:

May 19, 2014; 6pm

Brownsburg FD  
470 E Northfield Dr  
Brownsburg IN 46112  
317-852-1190